

REVIEWS.

1. AN AMERICAN TEXT-BOOK OF THE DISEASES OF CHILDREN. By American Teachers. Edited by LOUIS STARR, M.D., assisted by THOMPSON S. WESTCOTT, M.D. Second edition, revised. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1898.
2. MEDICAL DISEASES OF INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD. By DAWSON WILLIAMS, M.D., Physician to the East London Hospital for Children. In one 12mo. volume of 629 pages, with 18 illustrations. Philadelphia and New York: Lea Brothers & Co., 1898.
3. TRAITÉ DE L'ALLAITEMENT ET DE L'ALIMENTATION DES ENFANTS DU PREMIER AGE. Par le Dr. A. B. MARFAN. Paris: G. STEINHEIL, 1899.
(TREATISE ON NURSING AND FEEDING OF INFANTS. By A. B. Marfan, M.D.)

THE discussion of diseases of childhood is frequently based upon knowledge gained in the study of diseases of adults. This is manifestly improper, and the tendency of the day is, as it should be, toward a general recognition of the independent position of pediatrics. Authors who presume to write text-books or articles on diseases of children should base their observations upon facts learned in the study of the diseases of childhood, and not upon their general medical knowledge, with supplementation of statistical tables showing the frequency of diseases under discussion in early life. In some of the older text-books the omission of such occasional statistics would have justified a change of the title-page from "Diseases of Children" to "Practice of Medicine." The physiology and pathology of infancy and childhood must be studied apart from adult physiology and pathology. Pediatrics has won for itself an independent position, and to those who urge that there is a tendency in all branches of science toward generalization, as evidenced by such terms as comparative pathology, it may be replied that comparison and generalization cannot be undertaken until a mastery of special branches is accomplished. It is desirable, therefore, that text-books on pediatrics should be based upon careful study of the natural history of diseases of children. Text-books of the present day are, as a rule, more free from the fault alluded to than those of a decade ago; and it is because the books under review are commendably free from errors of this sort that we have been tempted to allude to their existence.

The second edition of Starr's *American Text-Book* is somewhat larger than the first, and includes several new articles: "Modified Milk and Percentage Milk Mixtures," "Lithæmia," "Orthopædics." Other

chapters have been rearranged, revised, or rewritten. The number of authors, as in the first edition, is considerable; but the character of the work is nevertheless quite uniform. We are naturally attracted by the new articles. That on modified milk is of very great importance, and is a valuable addition to the work. Those who have followed carefully the increasing accuracy of knowledge regarding the composition and production of milk are, with every reason, convinced of the importance of such knowledge, and insist upon its application to the preparation of food for infants. The accurate and yet simple methods of milk analysis that have been elaborated by chemists have placed the physician in possession of facts regarding the composition of the normal human milk at different periods of lactation that demand greater accuracy in the preparation of artificial substitutes than has been possible in the past. More than this, the same methods have increased very materially our knowledge regarding the effects of altered composition of the milk upon the nutrition and health of children. The careful modification of cow's milk so as to conform as nearly as possible to the normal human milk at a certain period of lactation would seem, then, to be entirely reasonable, and the possibility of carrying out such modification with entire success cannot be questioned. The advantage of this method over the ancient methods of careless dilution and sweetening of cow's milk is undoubted. Dr. Westcott, the author of the article in question, is especially to be commended for the care he has taken to detail a plan for the "home-modification" of milk; for, though the milk laboratories now established in the large cities of this country and in England are available to many, the cost of the milk and the necessarily restricted field of operation of the laboratories limit their usefulness. Home-modification is, therefore, desirable, and the method suggested by Dr. Westcott will aid greatly in increasing knowledge regarding this important advance in scientific pediatrics. The article on lithæmia, by Dr. B. K. Rachford, is of great interest, though we cannot agree with many of the statements of the author, whose studies of kindred conditions in adults are well known. The solution of the pathology of gout and lithæmia has by no means been realized, and, however interesting certain theories may seem, it has not been shown by any means that the retention of the alloxuric bodies in the body-media is the cause or underlying pathologic condition. Those who believe in these theories will readily find cases like that cited by the author (page 95). A child, two days old, was greatly distressed and had a temperature of 104° F. for twenty-four hours. The urine was scanty and blood-tinged. After a warm bath, cathartics, and draughts of water, it began to improve, and urine which deposited uric acid was passed on the third day. Pathologists have long recognized the frequency of uric-acid infarcts in the renal tubules of the new-born, and clinicians have pointed out occasional anuria and distress as symptoms of difficult solution of such infarcts. No one, however, as far as our knowledge goes, has before ventured to regard these as other than quasi-normal conditions. We cannot enter into a consideration of the merits of the classification of various forms of lithæmia in childhood. It is not, of course, improbable that children suffer somewhat as do adults from this vague disorder, but the general opinion that lithæmia is an uncommon malady of childhood is undoubtedly well founded. The new section on orthopedics is eminently adapted to the needs of the general practitioner. In the revision of the article

on vaccinia, reference to the supposed protozoon organisms recently described, and to the advantages of glycerinated lymph, would have been appropriate. The statement that fever may be occasionally present in the second stage of whooping-cough, but is, as a rule, absent, is not, according to our experience, entirely reliable. It is the teaching of text-books, but we have found the exceptions in which continuous fever is observed very numerous. We might select other statements, here and there, for criticism, such as the one that "the most commonly held opinion is that this poison [the cause of rheumatism] is lactic acid;" but the general character of the work is so satisfactory that we forbear to discuss questions of opinion. Some of the articles might be improved by the application of the thought we express in the introductory remarks of this review, though in general the authors write from the stand-point of specialists in diseases of children.

The small work of Dr. Williams is an excellent exposition of the medical diseases of infancy and childhood. Indeed, we are acquainted with no book of its size and scope that has pleased us so much. It is eminently adapted to the needs of the student and young physician seeking to learn the clinical facts regarding diseases of children. The subject of feeding of infants might with advantage have been stated more explicitly. This is a common fault of text-books. After reading over the chapter we fail to carry away any definite impressions of the best methods of procedure in the feeding of infants in general or in special cases. The classification and discussion of the diseases are in every way according to modern ideas; but the treatment of diseases might with advantage have been more thoroughly considered.

Marfan's work is an evidence of the importance the subject of infant feeding has attained. The author considers systematically in separate parts of his book: *The Milk; Digestion and Nutrition of Infants, and Feeding*. In the first part the chemistry, physiology, and pathology of milk, lactation, and nutrition are carefully discussed; and we note with especial interest the chapters on Substances which are eliminated by the Mammary Gland, and the Microbes of Milk. The question of transmission of infectious diseases is presented in a way that stamps the author as one who accepts advanced modern opinions, though the adverse evidence is not omitted. Cases of transmission of tuberculosis through milk are cited at some length. The discussion of artificial feeding, in the second part, deals extensively with the question of sterilization and Pasteurization, but less thoroughly with modification of cow's milk than we could wish. The author himself recommends a simple and, it seems to us, rather unsatisfactory method. He advises, during the first five or six days of life, milk diluted with an equal quantity of sterile 10 per cent. solution of sugar of milk; during the first four or five months, milk diluted with one-half as much sugar solution; thereafter pure milk moderately sweetened, unless gastro-intestinal disorders arise, in which case he again dilutes the milk with one-third or one-fourth as much sugar-water. A method of this kind would hardly be considered advanced and modern in this country.

A. S.

MANUAL OF SKIN DISEASES. With Special Reference to Diagnosis and Treatment. For the Use of Students and General Practitioners. By W. A. HARDAWAY, M.D., Professor of Diseases of the Skin in the Missouri Medical College, St. Louis. Second edition, entirely rewritten and much enlarged. In one handsome 12mo. volume of 560 pages, with 40 engravings and 2 colored plates. Philadelphia and New York: Lea Brothers & Co., 1898.

THE revision of Dr. Hardaway's manual has been so thoroughly and well done as to make a practically new book of it. The alphabetical arrangement employed in the first edition has been abandoned, wisely, we think, for the classification of Hebra as modified by Crocker, this system being regarded as the one best adapted to teaching purposes, out of the many proposed. While fully recognizing the desirability of a rational system of classification, the author makes a plea for a more uniform system of nomenclature, believing this much more urgently needed than new systems of classification; and we are heartily in accord with him in this opinion.

The book is an eminently practical one, but little space being devoted to matters purely theoretical. The clinical features of cutaneous disease are clearly and accurately described, and the directions for treatment are sufficiently full and altogether judicious. A noticeable feature of his edition of the *Manual* is the exceeding thoroughness with which the subject-matter has been brought up to date, all the newest views and discoveries in dermatology finding brief but appropriate mention.

That much discussed disease, seborrhæic eczema, is given a place apart from the other forms of eczema, the author apparently not yet having made up his mind as to the exact place this malady ought to occupy.

We note that the treatment of psoriasis by large doses of iodide of potassium, as advocated by Haslunig, is not looked upon with favor; indeed, it is regarded as dangerous. This seems to us an excess of caution hardly justified by experience. There is no doubt that, in a certain proportion of cases, this treatment is very effective; and the number in which it produces serious ill-effects is certainly a very small one.

We notice with some surprise, in a book otherwise so entirely modern, that lupus vulgaris and the scrofulodermata are not described in the section upon tuberculosis of the skin; but the old classification is retained, and they are treated in separate sections, as if they were something other than tuberculous, the author's reason being that they differ clinically from the other more distinctively tuberculous affections of the skin. This reason is, to our mind, altogether insufficient for thus separating lupus vulgaris at least from the other forms of tuberculosis cutis. While it may be desirable to retain the old names, to avoid confusion, it ought to be made clear to the student that, by whatever names these affections are called, and however much they may differ among themselves in some of their clinical aspects, they are etiologically identical—they are all tuberculous and are to be treated as such.

A number of illustrations have been introduced in this edition, but they are of doubtful value in the elucidation of the text, since they are, to say the least, of indifferent quality.

The new edition is, all in all, a very great improvement over the first one, and in its present shape the manual is one of the very best among